

accusation, and asserts that the principles of his party are identical only with those of the Liberal party in England. He explains that he is "one of those who think that everywhere in human affairs there are abuses to reform, new horizons to open, and new forces to develop." Mr. Laurier assumes to speak on behalf of the French Canadian Liberals, and they are tacitly recognizing the assumption as correct. But it is worth while noting that this declaration of Mr. Laurier brings him and those who think with him into conflict with the renegade section of the Liberal party who style themselves *Reformists*, like the *National* and the *Gazette de Sorel*. The *National* last summer formally declared that its party "professed no philosophic doctrine, properly so called, and was only interested in the economical and practical administration of the business of the country." We are curious to see whether the *Reformists* will renounce Mr. Laurier also, as too extreme and impractical, or whether his noble and courageous stand will have the effect of inspiring them with some part of their lost manhood.

It is the habit for the French Liberals of to-day to disown all sympathy with, or responsibility for the policy of the young Liberals of 1848, who published the *Avenir* and later advocated their principles, considerably modified, in the *Pays*. Mr. Laurier has fallen into the habit, and in his reference to them we think he has scarcely done them justice. Admitted that some of their schemes, such as annual Parliaments and annexation, were ill judged and chimerical, the main features of their programme were indisputably just and patriotic, and in harmony with the principles of the English Liberal party. Secular education provided by the State for all children and separation of Church and State are doctrines of the leading English Liberals; they are doctrines of the liberals in every country, and we have not the slightest doubt that they are held also by every intelligent French-Canadian Liberal in his *for intérieur*. The talented and earnest young patriots who openly advocated these doctrines thirty years ago, who founded L'Institut Canadien and other centres of light for their fellow-Countrymen, were as noble men as this Province ever produced; but in face of the tremendous Ultramontane reaction which has overwhelmed them, we are not surprised that even Mr. Laurier should have failed to do them justice.

What pleases us most in Mr. Laurier's address, and raises